of agriculture. And, it is a very legitimate concern. This is the concern which I had also expressed, when I was replying to that supplementary of the hon. Member, that in fixing the import duties, we have to keep in mind the factor of domestic production; and I would like to assure the hon. Member, Ramoowaliaji, that there is no question of blind imports; the imports are already permissible because we have removed the quantitative restrictions. The last of the trade barriers is gone. It is only a question now of fixing the import tariff and we have brought down the import tariff from 25 per cent to 15 per cent. We will continue to watch the imports of these items, and see what is happening; as, indeed, Sir, the Commerce Ministry is watching the import of 300 sensitive items regularly. They are monitoring the imports, and we have taken other steps in this Budget to make sure that unrestricted imports do not take place, that we have the safeguard mechanism, that we have the anti-dumping mechanism in order to be able to tackle the problem. So the Government will continue to be very, very cautious with regard to imports. Despite liberalisation, we will continue to watch over the interests of the Indian industry and take only such steps which would harmonise the interests of the consumer and the interests of the Indian industry. That is the general approach and I would like to reiterate it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Social Sector Expenditure

*222. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of GDP on social sector expenditure during the period 1981-1991 and 1991-2001, separately;

(b) the comparative figures of the same with the East Asian countries during the above period;

(c) whether it is a fact that our public spending on social sector has declined;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is also a fact that our social sector expenditure is much low as compared to the ratio recommended by the United Nation's Development Programme; and

(f) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Central government expenditure (Plan and Non-Plan) on education, health, family welfare, nutrition, water supply, sanitation, housing, social welfare, rural development etc. increased from Rs. 1355 crore in 1981-82 to Rs. 8175 crore in 1991-92, and to Rs. 37,870 crore in 2001-02 (RE). As a percentage of Gross Domestic Product at market prices it increased from 0.8 per cent in 1981-82 to 1.3 per cent in 1991-92, and to 1.7 per cent 2001-02 (RE).

(b) As per the available data from the latest Human Development Report 2001, the share of public expenditure on education and health for India and some of the East Asian countries is:

		Public expenditure on education (as% of GNP)		Public expenditure on health (as% of GDP)	
		1985—87	1995—97	1990	1998
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	India	3.2	3.2	0.9	—
2.	Singapore	3.9	3.0	1.0	1.2
3.	Hong Kong	2.5	2.9	1.6	—
4.	Malaysia	6.9	4.9	1.5	1.4
5.	Thailand	3.4	4.8	1.0	1.9

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Korea Rep. of	3.8	3.7*	2.1	2.3
7.	Indonesia	0.9Δ	1.4**	0.6	0.7

*Data are not strictly comparable to those for earlier years as a result of methodological changes in surveys.

ΔData refer to a year or period other than that specified. Data refer to the Ministry of Education only.

**Data refer to the Central Govt. only.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) UNDP has not made any specific recommendations for India with regard to social sector expenditure. The Executive Board of the UNDP has not laid down any norms for social sector expenditure.

Mismanagement in IGNCA

*223. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report captioned "Indira Centre Specialises in the art of mismanagement", which appeared in the Deccan Chronicle dated the 4th December 2001;

(b) if so, whether Government have carried out any inquiry into the state of affairs of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA);

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to address various problems of mismanagement in the IGNCA as highlighted in the news-report?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Sir, the Government has seen the report published in Deccan Chronicle dated 4th December, 2001.

(b) to (d) The issues raised in the Press report are based on audit report of Director General, Audit (Central Revenue) for 1995-96 to